

CLAIMS

[1] A lipase activity inhibitor consisting of a high-molecular weight polyphenol fraction isolated from oolong tea.

[2] The lipase activity inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the high-molecular weight polyphenol fraction isolated from oolong tea is either a liquid fraction or a concentrated or dried form thereof, the liquid fraction being obtained by a process in which an aqueous extract of oolong tea is brought into contact with an adsorbent selected from the group consisting of activated charcoal and an adsorbent resin, whereby non-polymerized catechins are selectively removed to enhance the ratio of polymerized catechins to the non-polymerized catechins.

[3] The lipase activity inhibitor according to claim 2, wherein the non-polymerized catechins are selectively removed by bringing the extract of oolong tea into contact with the adsorbent as the extract is held at a temperature of at least 50°C.

[4] A method in which an aqueous liquid containing polymerized catechins and non-polymerized catechins is brought into contact with an adsorbent selected from the group consisting of activated charcoal and an adsorbent resin as the aqueous liquid is held at a temperature of at least 50°C, whereby the non-polymerized catechins are selectively removed so that the ratio of the polymerized catechins to the non-polymerized catechins is made higher than in the original aqueous liquid.

[5] The method according to claim 4, which is performed by filling a column with the adsorbent selected from the group consisting of activated charcoal and an adsorbent resin, passing an aqueous extract of tea leaves through the column in an amount 5-10 times the capacity of the column, recovering the effluent from the column, and optionally concentrating or drying the effluent.

[6] The method according to claim 5, wherein a liquid extracted from oolong tea with slightly alkaline lukewarm water is passed through the column.

[7] An aqueous, wet or dry composition that has been produced by the method according to any one of claims 4-6 to have an enhanced ratio of the polymerized catechins to the non-polymerized catechins.

[8] A tea extract in which the amount of polymerized catechin relative to non-polymerized catechin is at least four times as much.

[9] The tea extract according to claim 8, which is an oolong tea extract.

[10] A lipase activity inhibitor containing the composition according to claim 7 or the tea extract according to any one of claims 8 and 9.

[11] The lipase activity inhibitor according to any one of claims 1, 2, 3 and 10 which is used to suppress the absorption of dietary lipids and subsequent rise of triglyceride in blood.

[12] A food or beverage additive comprising the composition according to claim 7 or the tea extract

according to any one of claims 8 and 9.

[13] The food or beverage additive according to claim 12 which is added to foods or beverages to suppress the absorption of dietary lipids and subsequent rise of triglyceride in blood.

[14] A food or drink containing the composition according to claim 7 or the tea extract according to any one of claims 8 and 9.

[15] The food or drink according to claim 14 which is either a health food or a health drink.

[16] The drink according to claim 14 which is a tea drink.

[17] The drink according to claim 16 which is a mixture of a tea extract and the composition according to claim 7 or the tea extract according to any one of claims 8 and 9.

[18] The drink according to claim 17, wherein the extract is an extract of oolong tea.

[19] The drink according to any one of claims 14-18, wherein the polymerized catechins in 1 L of the drink are enriched to have a value of 270-3600 mg as analyzed by high-performance liquid chromatography.